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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT ROUTING SLIP

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EXecutive Secretary

25 Mar 86

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and Jacob Allians

The Director of Central Intelligence washington, D. C. 20505

25 March 1986

Dear Abe,

COMMENT ASSESSED

You did it again with the valuable insights provided in your article in Sunday's New York Times Magazine. It is the best thing I've seen since your article on Poland.

The only disagreement I have is that you bought too much of the Sandinista propaganda line in making so much of the Somozistas and the FDN. Of 150 senior officers (task force commanders and higher) 25% had served in the guard, the great bulk of them only as young junior officers or cadets, and about 25% of them are former Sandinistas. Of the overall FDN forces of 17,000 only about 1% had served in the guard and none of the remaining 3,000 in the other contra groups in the south came out of the Somoza guard.

Yours.

William J. Casey

Mr. A. M. Rosenthal Executive Editor The New York Times 229 West 43rd Street New York, New York 10036

